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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001


Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing in support of the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I do not believe protracted litigation, or the imposition of punishment beyond the terms of the agreement, such as breaking up the Microsoft Corporation, will serve the best interests of anyone.

As a computer consultant, I believe open competition is beneficial to consumers, and to our economy as a whole. Microsoft has been a fierce competitor in the market place, and has prospered as a result. This has been good for consumers. However, if Microsoft violated any antitrust laws in their business practices, that behavior should be rectified. So long as the settlement agreement provisions rectify any actions that violate the laws, the settlement agreement should be approved, and the litigation should end. I believe the settlement agreement contains such provisions. Specifically, the creation of a three person technical committee to monitor Microsoft's business practices, and Microsoft's agreement to share internal operating information with its competitors, will go far in ensuring compliance with antitrust laws.

I urge you to support the settlement agreement. In these trying economic times, it is important for Microsoft, and the computer industry as a whole, be free to focus on business, rather than lawsuits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacques Germans", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

*Jacques Germans*

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